World Bank opposition to procurement operations of State owned Corporations

1489. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the World Bank has criticised operations of the state owned seeds corporations as "fairly inefficient" and if so, what is Government's reaction thereto; and

(b) whether it is a fact that World Bank is opposed to public marketing intervention or procurement operations for foodgrains crops, if so, what are the reasons therefor and Government's response to such recommendations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA) : (a) and (b) It appears that Hon'ble Member seeks information on the basis of the World Bank's report. The report is prepared and circulated by the World Bank to the donor countries/agencies each year prior to the annual Indian Consortium meeting in order to focus on salient aspects of the Indian economy and to serve as a background paper during the discussions.

It is, however, an internal document of the World Bank. The report is not published. The views and suggestions expressed in the report are those of the World Bank. The distribution of this report by the Bank is restricted. The recipients of the report are not authorised to disclose its contents.

Problems of Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval

1490. SHRI CHIMANBHAI MEHTA : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether fishing is permitted to foreigners in Indian territorial waters, if so, the foreign companies allowed to fish in Indian waters and what are the conditions laid down for this;

(b) whether the Minister of State for Agriculture received a memorandum from the Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval about their grievances and problems, and if so, what is Government's reaction in this regard;

(c) whether foreign fishing boats are fishing unauthorisedly, if so, whether they are arrested and prosecuted;

(d) whether big fishing companies are allotted excise free diesel oil while small fishermen are denied of this facility;

(e) what are the new technologies being applied to develop fishing industries and particularly for small fishermen; and

(f) what sort of economic and administrative assistance is being given to small fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND CORPORATION (SHRI YOGENDRA MAKWANA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir. The Akhil Gujarat Machhimar Mahamandal, Veraval has represented for dec-casing the price of diesel, petrol and kerosene for fishermen and for the removal of Central excise duty on fishing equipments. The proposal for extending the excise duty concession on HSD oil to the small mechanised fishing-boats was examined by the Government; but it was not found possible to implement it owing to severe administrative difficulties and risk to the revenue.

(c) Unauhtorised foreign fishing vessels, if found fishing in the Indian Exclusive Economic Zone, are apprehended by the coast guard and prosecuted as per the provisions of the Maritime Zones of India (Regulation of Fishing by Foreign Vessels) Act, 1981.